



## Department of Ecology

### 2005-07 Capital Budget

Ecology's capital budget is a highly effective tool that is used by the state of Washington to pursue its environmental goals. The \$374 million requested for the 2005-07 biennium is almost entirely focused on funding local community infrastructure needs. Three million dollars of this amount is to properly maintain and use agency-owned facilities.

Because the Water Quality Account has more demands on it than can be supported from the current fund balance, and Referendum 38 dollars are fully committed, this budget requests more bond support than in previous years. This additional bond support from the State Building Construction Account will be used to maintain the agency's commitment to providing grants for water quality projects, implement local watershed plans, and invest in agricultural water supply and irrigation efficiencies.

Due to unusually high oil prices, the state anticipates support to the Local Toxics Control Account to increase in the next revenue forecast. Ecology's Capital Budget request will use this additional money to support solid and hazardous waste prevention and management efforts in our communities, as well as clean-up toxic sites.

### Water for Local Communities and Healthy Watersheds

#### **Ensuring Adequate Water Supply**

Local watershed plans are currently being developed that cover 45 of the state's 62 Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs). Many of these plans are nearing completion or will be completed during the 2005-07 biennium. Recommendations in the plans are expected to include new and rehabilitated capital facilities, water conservation projects, and acquisition of water rights to meet needs identified in the plans.

**Watershed Plan Implementation and Flow Achievement ~ \$16 million from the State Building Construction Account** ~ Thirty-seven local watershed plans (covering 45 WRIAs) are being developed using state grant funds issued under Chapter 90.82 RCW (Watershed Planning). As these plans near completion, they are identifying many capital needs, including new projects, rehabilitation of existing water systems, water conservation, water storage, metering and acquisition of existing water rights for instream flow and other future needs. Ecology is requesting \$16 million to finance capital projects and water acquisition for implementing locally developed watershed plans. These projects and acquisitions will help watershed units meet future water needs while achieving recommended instream flows.

**Columbia River Initiative** – Ecology will be requesting funding to implement the key features of the Governor's initiative. The elements of the proposed package will include funding for acquisition of water, efficiency improvements, engineering feasibility studies for modifications to existing storage facilities, water use metering devices, and most significantly, site evaluation and preliminary feasibility work on new, off mainstem storage sites.

**Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District Water Conservation** ~ *\$3.88 million from the State Building Construction Account* ~ Ecology is requesting resources for the state share (17.5%) of the Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project managed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation for conservation improvements required by the Sunnyside Division Water Right Settlement Agreement in the Yakima Basin Water Rights Adjudication (State of Washington, Department of Ecology vs. James J. Acquavella, et al.).

**Water Irrigation Efficiencies** ~ *\$3.5 million from the State Building Construction Account* ~ Ecology is requesting an appropriation to provide new grants to conservation districts to assist the agriculture community in implementing water conservation measures and irrigation efficiencies in fish critical basins. There are ten conservation districts in fish critical basins throughout the state participating in the Irrigation Efficiencies Program. Conservation Districts receiving funds manage each grant to ensure that a portion of the water saved by the water conservation measure or irrigation efficiency will be placed as a purchase or lease into the Trust Water Program (TWP) to enhance in-stream flows. This program is essential in achieving in-stream flows in fish critical basins.

## **Maintaining Water Quality**

The Water Quality Program Administers a grant program (Centennial Clean Water Program) and a loan program (Water Pollution Control Revolving Account), using one funding application and cycle for both funding sources. Grants from the Centennial Program are often packaged with the loans available from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Account to assist small hardship communities, leverage available local dollars, and fund the highest priority/highest return on investment local water quality improvement projects.

**Centennial Clean Water Program** ~ *\$39.3 million from the Water Quality Account and \$10.7 million from the State Building Construction Account* ~ This grant program finances the planning, implementation, design, acquisition, and construction of water pollution control facilities and activities. For the 05-07 biennium, Ecology requests the following new appropriation amounts:

- \$10,000,000 solely for the extended payment grant to Spokane and Spokane County to protect the Spokane-Rathdrum Prairie aquifer.
- \$5,000,000 for communities statewide needing assistance for phase II stormwater planning to meet state and federal requirements.
- \$5,000,000 for small communities with demonstrated financial hardship needs to construct new or upgrade existing sewer facilities.
- \$30,000,000 for competitive statewide water quality implementation and planning grants and loans. A project list detailing local government proposals will be available in early 2005.

**Water Pollution Control Revolving Account ~ \$239.6 million from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Account ~** This program provides financial assistance in the form of low-interest loans to local governments for high priority water quality projects. Since its creation, Ecology has used this loan program to make more than \$751 million available to local governments for planning, design, acquisition, construction, and improvement of water pollution control facilities. These projects result in cleaner water for fish, human consumption, and recreational use. Additional capacity is requested this year in anticipation of early loan repayments.

## **Managing Waste in our Communities**

### **Grants for Cleanup and Prevention**

\$57 million is requested from the Local Toxics Control Account for local solid waste plan implementation and public participation efforts and site clean-up activities conducted by local governments. The requested appropriation will support remedial action grants to clean up contaminated industrial sites, coordinated prevention grants to support local solid and hazardous waste plan implementation (local recycling and waste prevention programs), and public participation grants to support public involvement in site remediation and waste reduction efforts. The appropriation will also support local government efforts in implementing the new “Beyond Waste” plan.

**Remedial Action Grants for Cleanup ~ \$33.9 million from the Local Toxics Control Account ~** The state contains hundreds of hazardous waste sites that threaten the state's water resources, including those used for public drinking water, and many of our municipal landfills are currently or potentially hazardous waste sites and present serious threats to human health and the environment. The costs of eliminating these threats in many cases are beyond the financial means of local governments and ratepayers. Based on site cleanup criteria and decisions made by the Toxics Cleanup Program, grants are made to local governments to clean up publicly owned contaminated sites and related work.

**Coordinated Prevention Grants for Prevention ~ \$22.6 million from the Local Toxics Control Account ~** The Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program provides grant funds (Coordinated Prevention Grants) to local governments for maintaining solid-waste-handling infrastructure and programs, reducing and preventing waste wherever possible, and increasing recycling and recovery of materials that are now discarded. For the 05-07 biennium, Ecology and its local government waste management partners are initiating implementation of the new statewide “Beyond Waste” Plan. The new plan provides additional emphasis on waste and pollution prevention, rather than cleanup. Additional state grant moneys will be available for Beyond Waste projects, especially green building, organics reuse, and household hazardous waste management.

**Public Participation Grants for Informing Communities About Cleanup & Prevention ~ \$570,000 from the Local Toxics Control Account ~** Public Participation Grants provide funding to citizen groups and not-for-profit public interest organizations. This supports community awareness and understanding of the cleanup of contaminated sites, and pollution prevention. This makes it

easier for citizens to be involved in cleanup of hazardous-waste sites and carrying out the state's solid- and hazardous-waste management priorities.

**Safe Soil Remediation and Awareness Projects** ~\$750,000 *from the State Toxics Control Account*  
~ The Washington State Legislature directed Ecology to form and support a stakeholder Task Force to consider the special challenges posed by widespread low-level lead and arsenic contamination caused by historic smelting and agriculture practices within the state. This request begins to implement Task Force recommendations by establishing a State Toxics Control Account capital appropriation. This appropriation will enable the department to address the health risks to children posed by arsenic and lead by providing a stable, flexible funding source for soil investigations and cleanup. Funding would also be used to contract with state and local school organizations to develop, integrate and institutionalize cleanup actions and awareness measures within their jurisdictions consistent with Task Force recommendations.

### **Investing in Ecology Owned Facilities**

To properly maintain and fully use agency owned facilities Ecology is requesting capital improvement dollars for the three projects noted below.

**Reconfigure Space at Headquarters** ~ \$1.45 million *from the State Building Construction Account*  
~ Renovation of space in our headquarter facility to improve building efficiency and customer service delivery is requested. The specific needs are to modify laboratory space in the basement that is no longer needed; move the library to the basement; and renovate the current library space to provide a more confidential space for Employee Services.

**Health and Safety Minor Works** ~ \$710,000 *from the State Building Construction Account* ~ To protect the health and safety of our employees and the visiting public capital improvements to the Lacey facility are necessary. The majority of this request is based upon recommendations from Indoor Air consultants to replace carpet and to grout atrium rocks at Ecology's headquarters facility in Lacey. In addition to the air quality driven improvements, we need to reconstruct the main reception station to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to create a more efficient work space for staff.

**Minor Works** ~ \$615,000 *State Building Construction Account* ~ Minor works improvements to preserve state-owned facilities in Lacey and Spokane are requested. Needed investments include replacement of the chiller, roof and parking lot at the Spokane Office. The Lacey facility needs stairwell renovation and exterior concrete sealing to address structural problems and prevent water damage.